

Customer No. 32,127  
Attorney Docket No. 01-1001

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claims 1, 5, 7, 8, 12, 16, 17, and 24, as listed in the following listing of the claims, which replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for alerting a called party of a voice mail from a calling party via a network comprising a telephone network, a data network, and at least one gateway device connected to both the telephone network and the data network, the method comprising:
  - receiving a first message from an SCP in the telephone network at the at least one gateway device, the first message including an identifier of the calling party and the voice mail message;
  - accessing a profile associated with the called party to identify a selected one of a plurality of instant messaging identifiers associated with the called party, the selected instant messaging identifier being selected based on rules for communication forwarding; and
  - providing a second message in an instant messaging format including the calling party identifier and the voice mail message using the selected instant messaging identifier to the called party via the data network.
2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the telephone network is a public switched telephone network.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the telephone network is a wireless telephone network.
4. (Cancelled).

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5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein providing the second message to the called party via the data network comprises providing the second message in an instant messaging format to a server in the data network, associated with the called party[[; and]], the server forwarding the second message in an instant messaging format to a user terminal of the called party.

6. (Cancelled).

7. (Currently Amended) A method of receiving voice mail and providing voice mail information to a [[voice-mailbox ]]voice mailbox owner in which a calling party places a telephone call by transmitting signaling information corresponding to a telephone number, and leaves a voice mail message, the method comprising:

- registering the voice mailbox owner using an instant messaging server;
- receiving from the calling party the signaling information corresponding to the telephone number;
- receiving from the calling party the voice mail message;
- storing the voice mail message in a voice mail storage memory;
- determining that the voice mailbox owner is a subscriber to a voice mail notification service;
- generating a voice mail alert message corresponding to the voice mail message, the voice mail alert message including the voice mail message; and
- transmitting the voice mail alert message to an instant messaging server.

8. (Currently Amended) A method for providing voice mail indication to a user in a system comprising a data network and a telephone network, the method comprising:

- receiving via the telephone network a voice mail for the user;
- storing the voice mail in the telephone network;
- sending a message from an SCP in the telephone network to a server connected to the data network, the message including the voice mail;[[ and]]
- storing the voice mail in a database in the data network;

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accessing a profile associated with the user to identify communication forwarding rules;

notifying the user of the stored voice mail via the data network based on the communication forwarding rules.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, further comprising:  
receiving a request from the user for accessing the voice mail.
10. (Original) The method of claim 8, further comprising:  
receiving a request from the user for manipulating the status of the voice mail.
11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein manipulating the status of the voice mail further comprises connecting to the telephone network and changing the voice mail status based on the request.
12. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:  
a telephone network configured to receive a voice message from a calling party to a called party;  
a data network configured to provide indication of the receipt of the voice message; and  
a gateway device, connected to both the telephone network and the data network, configured to:  
receive, via an SCP in the telephone network, a first message including the voice message and an indication of the calling party[.];  
access a profile associated with the called party to identify called party communication forwarding rules; and  
provide a second message including the voice message and the indication of the calling party to the called party via the data network based on the called party communication forwarding rules.
13. (Cancelled).

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14. (Cancelled).

15. (Cancelled).

16. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12, wherein the called party communications forwarding rules direct the gateway device is configured to provide the second message to the called party by providing the second message to a server in the data network associated with the called party.

17. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12, wherein the called party communications forwarding rules direct the gateway device is configured to provide the second message in an instant messaging format using an instant messaging identifier of the called party.

18. (Cancelled).

19. (Cancelled).

20. (Cancelled).

21. (Cancelled).

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the first message is an SS7 message.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
determining if the called party is a subscriber to a voice mail notification service  
before providing the second message.

24. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

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a voice interface server connected to a voice network, and configured to communicate with an SCP in the voice network using SS7 formatted messages;

a data interface server connected to a data network, and configured to communicate with a user terminal connected to the data network using IP formatted messages; ~~and~~

a voice mail notification server connected to the voice interface server and data interface server, and configured to both determine when a called party receives a voice mail through the voice network via the voice interface server and send a voice mail notification to the called party at the user terminal; and

a management server connected to the voice mail notification server, and configured to provide communication forwarding rules associated with the called party;

wherein, upon receipt of the voice mail in the voice network—

the voice interface server receives a first message in SS7 format from the SCP, the first message including a calling party phone number and the voice mail, and sends the calling party phone number and the voice mail to the voice mail notification server;

the ~~voice interface mail notification~~ server sends the voice mail notification to the called party by sending a second message in IP format to the data interface server, the second message including the calling party phone number and the voice mail; and

the data interface server forwards the second message in IP format to the user terminal based on the communication forwarding rules provided by the management server.

25. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 24, wherein the second message is in an instant messaging format.